

with 1 and the marginal ones with a pair of cylindrical blunt spines ; the dorsal ossicula with radiating groups of short cylindrical spinulose spines ; body with 6 slightly concave sides.

Var. Body 5-sided. *Var.* or *Monstrosity* with 2 dorsal warts.

Inhab. Van Diemen's Land. *Ronald Gunn, Esq.*

6. *Asterina Calcar.* *Asterias Calcar*, *Lam.* 17 ; *Oudart*, t. . f. . All the ossicula of the lower surface with a single central cylindrical blunt spine ; the dorsal ones with numerous short tapering spinulose spines ; body convex, with 8 rather elongate blunt rays.

Inhab. Van Diemen's Land. *Dr. Lhotsky*, and *Mr. G. B. Sowerby*.

3. PATIRIA.

The body pyramidal, coriaceous, with five rays ; the ossicula of the oral surface with uniform radiating groups of small spines ; of the dorsal surface of two kinds, the one crescent-shaped with series of small bundles of spines, the others bearing irregular round bundles of spines between them.

Patiria coccinea. Scarlet, the body 5-rayed, sides concave, the end of the rays rather slender, blunt.

Inhab. Cape of Good Hope.

4. SOCOMIA, Gray.

The body depressed ; rays elongate, formed of imbricate plates ; the margins broad, the upper and lower series of ossicules being separated by a groove.

Socomia paradoxa. Yellow.

Inhab. ——— ?

XXXIII.—Some Remarks on the British Species of the Genus Martes. By T. C. EYTON, Esq., F.L.S.

It has been long, and is now, I believe, a disputed point between the writers on British Mammalia, whether or not two species of Marten exist in the British Isles ; thus, Mr. Bell in his excellent 'History of British Quadrupeds' gives them distinct ; while, on the other hand, Mr. MacGillivray in the 'Naturalists' Library' is of the opposite opinion. With a view of doing something towards setting this question at rest, I requested several persons living in neighbourhoods where Martens are found to obtain some for me ; within a short period I have received four specimens, one of which externally presented all the characteristics of the true Pine Marten, having the bright yellow breast of that species ; another agreed with the descriptions of the Common Marten, was larger than the last, and had a white breast. Both of these I had made into skeletons. The other two specimens presented an intermediate character, having the breast slightly tinged with yellowish : I have merely kept the cranium of one of these. I have no hesitation in

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saying, from an examination of the above specimens, that the yellow-breasted specimen is merely the young of the other ; and that the Common Marten retains a yellow tinge on that part until after the first, or perhaps until after the second winter. My yellow-breasted specimen had been obtained in September, and was not, I should think, from the state of ossification, an animal born during the foregoing summer ; the other specimens were all procured during winter, are all larger, and have the colouring on the breast not nearly so deep as in the one just mentioned. Had I not, however, seen a cranium in an intermediate state, I should certainly have supposed that the skeletons were those of two distinct species.

I do not, however, by any means intend to affirm that no second species exists in the British Isles, as my specimens were all obtained from a limited district in North Wales, but nevertheless presenting all the characteristics of the supposed British species.

The numbering of the vertebræ and ribs in both skeletons are the same ; but I give them here for the sake of offering other persons the opportunity of comparing them with any skeletons that they may have belonging to the genus.

Cer. 7, dor. 14, lum. 6, lac. 7, caud. 15, ribs 14 pair.

The form of the different bones, with the exception of some of those composing the crania, do not present any remarkable differences ; those, however, of the smaller skeleton present many marks of immaturity. The following admeasurements will show the disparity in size.

	Larger skeleton, or adult. Inches.	Smaller skeleton, or young. Inches.
Length of tibia	$3\frac{4}{10}$	3
— of femur	$3\frac{1}{10}$	$2\frac{9}{10}$
— humerus	$2\frac{9}{10}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$
— ulna	$2\frac{6}{10}$	$2\frac{4}{10}$
— scapula	$1\frac{9}{10}$	$1\frac{6}{10}$
Breadth of ditto	$1\frac{6}{10}$	$1\frac{4}{10}$
Length of cranium	$3\frac{5}{10}$	3
Breadth of ditto	2	$1\frac{9}{10}$
Length of pelvis	$2\frac{5}{10}$	$2\frac{1}{10}$
Breadth of ditto, at acetabular cavity	$1\frac{1}{10}$	$1\frac{1}{10}$

In the cranium of the younger specimen, the tuberos process to which the ligamentum nuchæ is attached appears the most prominent, and the crest over the vertex, on which the temporal muscles arise, is narrower than in the adult. The greater degree of prominence in the tuberos process in the young, may be explained by the crest running from it over the vertex as it becomes broader, filling up the indentation on each side ; thus this apparently greater degree of prominence merely proceeds from an incomplete state of ossification in the surrounding parts.

The next most striking point of difference in the cranium, is that

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the bones composing the zygomatic arch are broader in the young than in the adult: how to account for this I do not otherwise know, than that it is a contrivance of nature to give greater strength to the jaw in the young, before the remainder of the cranium is sufficiently ossified to bear the strain of the large temporal muscles without such support; but on referring to the skeletons of the young and old otter, I find the same difference to exist as regards the posterior portion of the arch. This, therefore, does not appear to be a character of any value.

The dentition in all the specimens is the same, and agrees with that assigned to the genus; the canines in the adult are, however, slightly larger than in the younger one. No other points, throughout the whole skeleton, of sufficient importance to call for observation, present themselves. I think, however, that my readers, from what I have said, will agree with me in saying, that it is at least most probable that the young of the Common Marten has been mistaken for a distinct species, and that no such animal as the Pine Marten exists in the British Isles.

It may, perhaps, while on the subject of British animals, not be out of place here to advert to a short account of the Irish Hare, published by me in vol. ii. p. 283, of the Magazine of Zoology and Botany, (1837) since which period another paper on the same subject has been published in one of the Irish Transactions, by Mr. Thompson of Belfast, to whom I take this opportunity of returning my thanks for it. He adverts in it to some disparity between his measurements and mine.

On the receipt of his paper I immediately referred again to my skeletons, and found the measurements to agree perfectly with those I had already published; but having obtained another Irish Hare and another English one, I found that I could compare them either so as nearly to agree with his measurements or my own: thus a comparison between the second specimens obtained, agreed very nearly with Mr. Thompson's, and the original specimens with my own; but a comparison between one of the last with one of the first differed from either.

This, I think, proves the necessity of being very careful in the admission of measurements as distinctive marks of species, unless the limit of variation in each species is to a certain extent ascertained.

XXXIV.—*On the Occurrence of two Species of Shells of the Genus Conus in the Lias, or Inferior Oolite, near Caen in Normandy.* By C. LYELL, Esq., F.R.S., F.G.S., &c.

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